

Filed for intro on 05/15/2002

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1072  
By Bone

A RESOLUTION to recognize Alvin McKee for his years of  
steadfast service to agriculture in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders for whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Alvin McKee is one such remarkable citizen who is richly deserving of this legislative body's commendation; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Tennessee, he was born on May 26, 1919 on his family's farm in the Grant community of Smith County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McKee, as a first grade student, was asked to write his autobiography; his life story was a simple one-line statement: "I started milking cows at four years old and have been milking them ever since"; and

WHEREAS, during his fifty years in the livestock industry, Alvin McKee has stayed current with advancements in agriculture, while honoring the finest traditions of farming's rich heritage; he has been involved in agriculture since the time when farmers plowed their ground

HJR1072

01496183

behind a mule, acres of seed were spread using a hand-cranked sower, tobacco plants were pegged out by hand, and a farmer could pick corn all day and not cover the bottom of the wagon, and long before cows were milked by electric machines; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McKee has earned the much-deserved reputation of being an outstanding cattleman, and is well respected across the United States for his integrity and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, he has been instrumental in the development of the family-owned and-operated business, Wilson County Livestock Market, into an exemplary livestock auction, which champions the farmer by providing a highly competitive market system; and

WHEREAS, conscious of the struggles and trials of farmers in the livestock business, Alvin McKee steadfastly works to ensure that the cattle producer is paid a premium price for his cattle at the Wilson County Livestock Market; and

WHEREAS, for over forty years, Mr. McKee, as an order buyer for Tennessee Livestock Producers, a division of the Tennessee Farm Bureau, and as a customer of Tennessee's cattle markets, has worked closely with livestock producers to improve the quality of Tennessee cattle and to increase the price of cattle sold at market; and

WHEREAS, highly-regarded professionals, his family business is a vital member of the Livestock Marketing Association, the Tennessee Livestock Markets Association and is a Tennessee Beef Backer; and

WHEREAS, Alvin McKee and his family at the Wilson County Livestock Market have generously supported numerous agriculture-related programs in the Wilson County community, including 4-H programs at both the county and state levels, the 4-H Livestock Exposition, the Tennessee FFA Foundation, and the Block and Bridle Club of Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, the McKee family's business, the Wilson County Livestock Market, has provided leadership and support for Tennessee's Amazin' Blazin' BBQ Cookoff, a special event held annually at the award-winning Wilson County Fair; and

WHEREAS, for his many years of dedicated service to, and leadership in, the livestock industry, he received the 1999 Award of Recognition from the Tennessee Charolais Association and a Lifetime Membership in the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association from the Wilson County Livestock Association; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, Alvin McKee and his family were awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McKee epitomizes the spirit and commitment to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, a devoted family man, he has instilled in his children and grandchildren his extraordinary work ethic, love of the land, and passion for agriculture as a way of life; and

WHEREAS, possessing a vast knowledge of the livestock industry, Alvin McKee has been, and continues to be, a source of wisdom and encouragement for farmers, both young and old, in Wilson County and across this State; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mr. McKee for his admirable dedication to agriculture in Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Alvin McKee for his years of meritorious service with the Wilson County Livestock Market, salute his stalwart commitment to Tennessee agriculture and Tennessee farmers, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.